Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, the format of copying contents of CD onto MD (Mini Disc) for listening thereto has been widely spread. At this time, the obtained copy deviates from the scope of personal amusement and the copy is frequently given to others. As a result, there arises a problem that this inflicts a loss on all rights reserved. In order to improve such a situation, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 9-34841 (1997) discloses a system which distributes CD storing ciphered software and distributes a deciphering key on-line in response to a request sent by a user while setting a charge for the distribution.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to achieve the objects mentioned above, the first aspect of the present invention provides a data conversion apparatus converting data including audio contents to super distribution format data and outputting the super distribution format data to be supplied to an external recording apparatus to be recorded therein.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The super distribution format data includes the audio contents and attribute information which represents at least a charge condition permitting a copy of the audio contents.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The data conversion apparatus comprises:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

an attribute information obtaining section for identifying the audio contents of the data and obtaining the attribute information corresponding to the identified audio contents from the external equipment via the data transmission/receiving section;

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Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a controller controlling the data transmission/receiving section, data format judging section, attribute information obtaining section and data format conversion section,

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

wherein, in the case where the data format judging section judges that the received data is not of the super distribution format, the attribute information obtaining section is so controlled as to obtain the attribute information corresponding to the audio contents from the external equipment, and wherein the data format conversion section is so controlled as to convert the received audio contents together with the obtained attribute information into the super distribution format data, so that the resultant data converted to the super distribution data format is outputted and supplied to the external recording apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another aspect of the present invention provides a data conversion method converting data including audio contents to super distribution format data and outputting the super distribution format data to be supplied to an external recording stage to be recorded therein.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The super distribution format data includes the audio contents and attribute information which represents at least a charge condition permitting a copy of the audio contents.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The data conversion method comprises:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

controlling the data transmission/receiving, data format judging, attribute information obtaining and data format conversion,

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Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

wherein, in the case where the data format judging judges that the received data is not of the super distribution format, the attribute information obtaining is so controlled as to obtain the attribute information corresponding to the audio contents from the external equipment, and wherein the data format conversion is so controlled as to convert the received audio contents together with the obtained attribute information into the super distribution format data, so that the resultant data converted to the super distribution data format is outputted and supplied to the external recording stage.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A further another aspect of the present invention provides a program storage medium storing a program of a data conversion method converting data including audio contents to super distribution format data and outputting the super distribution format data to be supplied to an external recording stage to be recorded therein.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The super distribution format data includes the audio contents and attribute information which represents at least a charge condition permitting a copy of the audio contents.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The data conversion method comprises:

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

controlling the data transmission/receiving, data format judging, attribute information obtaining and data format conversion,

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Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

wherein, in the case where the data format judging judges that the received data is not of the super distribution format, the attribute information obtaining is so controlled as to obtain the attribute information corresponding to the audio contents from the external equipment, and wherein the data format conversion is so controlled as to convert the received audio contents together with the obtained attribute information into the super distribution format data, so that the resultant data converted to the super distribution data format is outputted and supplied to the external recording stage.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 11 is a diagram showing a data structure to be recorded in a recording data management information temporary memory unit.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows an outline of a data copyright protection system in a music data distribution service according to the present invention. As an example of a data distribution route for distributing music data, there are typically used internet or the like online network distribution method and a package medium distribution for distributing such as CD and DVD data. In the distribution method via internet, previously ciphered music data including charge information is distributed to a user via such as a telephone modem so that the distributed data is primary recorded on such as a hard disk serving as a primarily recording medium of a user-side personal computer (referred to as "PC" hereinafter).

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Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Meanwhile, in the distribution method using a general package medium, non-super distribution formatted music data contents are distributed to a user-side PC via a disk drive (not shown). The user primarily records the distributed data on the hard disk of the PC using an exclusive application software (referred to as "PC player soft" hereinafter. At this time, the distributed data is added with attribute information (to be described later) such as charge information and is then ciphered to have the same ciphered data format as that of the super distribution format data distributed via internet. Thus, the resultant ciphered data having the same encryption format is primarily recorded on the hard disk. By this arrangement, a data distribution system can be preferably achieved to have convenience characteristics obtained both in the distribution method via internet and in the distribution method using package medium. That is, in the via-internet distribution method, a variety of music data can be easily selected by retrieving from an interactive music database, while in the package medium method, music data and related information can be easily obtained on sale via a distribution method of a low cost.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first data conversion apparatus 101 is interconnected with a host computer of a system control center (not shown) via an online network, and the second data conversion apparatus 121 serving as an external recording apparatus is connected to the first data conversion apparatus 101 via such as a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) bus which is described later. It is assumed that the system control center includes external servers (not shown) having a database storing such as customer (subscriber) information and charge information and a database storing copyright owner (author) and music data information, thereby supervising the control of customers, control of charging, sales and forwarding process. The first data conversion apparatus 101 receives audio contents and/or attribute information corresponding to audio contents from the external servers of the system control center via a digital network.

In this constitution, the data conversion system compatibly receives data distributed both via internet and via disc medium such as CD. The first data conversion apparatus 101 is realized generally by a personal computer (PC), which includes a data transmission/receiving portion 102 including at least a network interface 116, data format judging portion 103, data compressing conversion portion 104, attribute information adding unit 105, first ciphering unit 106, user ID adding unit 107, first recording unit 108, primary recording medium 109, data fetching portion 110, first deciphering unit 111, data output portion 112, charging portion 113, user ID generation storage portion 114, and controller 115 for controlling the entire parts of the apparatus. The PC player soft is initially installed in the first data conversion apparatus 101 to primarily record on the hard disc the primarily ciphered music data including attribute information such as charge information. The primarily recorded data is fetched out of the hard disc and then fed to the second data conversion apparatus 121 where the applied data is secondarily ciphered in another standardized encryption format and then secondarily recorded on a secondary recording medium for further copying proceeding. In this construction, the data format judging portion 103 judges whether or not the received data format is of super distribution.

When receiving the user's demand for purchase, the data transmission/receiving portion 102 is connected with the host computer and the desired music data is specified based on the ISRC information, obtaining the attribute information such as the charge amount information for secondary recording. The user finally indicates his intention based on the amount of the charge as to whether or not the music data is recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128. It is noted here that the user may specify the music data by directly specifying the music instead of using the ISRC information stored in the TOC area.

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Meanwhile, among the deciphered data outputted from the first deciphering unit 111, the contents deciphering key 206 and contents 207 shown in Fig. 3 are transmitted to the second data conversion apparatus 121 via the data output portion 112. Here, in the present embodiment, the data transmission bus between the data output portion 112 of the first data conversion apparatus 101 and the data receiving portion 122 of the second data conversion apparatus 121 is realized by a PCMCIA bus of a personal computer (PC).

Please replace the paragraph at page 33, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second ciphering unit 125 obtains the identification information peculiar to the secondary recording medium 128 obtained from the first authentication means 124 and creates a ciphering key based on the peculiar identification information so as to cipher the data outputted from the second deciphering unit 123. Thus, although the ciphered data recorded in the primary recording medium 109 may be of different cipherment format according to the data distribution route, the data can be converted to a cipherment format based on the identification information peculiar to the secondary recording medium 128 in the secondary ciphering process executed by the second ciphering unit 125.

Please replace the paragraph at page 37, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 9 shows a relationship between the compressing system and an amount of charge. Since the music title 301, the singer's name 302, the price 303 and the data source name 304 were described in the first embodiment with reference to Fig. 4, the description thereof is omitted. A compression format 801 represents a compressing conversion format of music data, and the compressing conversion formats such as LPCM and AAC are displayed. The user refers to the compression format 801 and the price 303 and simultaneously selects a suitable compressing conversion format. The description about the second embodiment of the present invention is ended here.

Please replace the paragraph at page 38, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second data conversion apparatus 121 is composed of the data receiving portion 122, second deciphering unit 123, first authentication unit 124, second enciphering unit 125, second recording unit 126, second authentication unit 127, and secondary recording medium 128. The apparatus 121 further includes a recording data management information temporary storage portion 901 and a recording permission judging unit 902. The third embodiment is different from the first embodiment in that the second data conversion apparatus 121 includes the recording data management information temporary storage portion 901 and a recording permission judging unit 902. In this construction, the recorded information of music data and information in the secondary recording medium where the music data were recorded can be temporarily stored in the second data conversion apparatus 121.

Please replace the paragraph at page 39, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The recording data management information temporary storage portion 901 manages the music data recorded in the second data conversion apparatus 121.

Please replace the paragraph at page 39, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The recording data management information temporary storage portion 901 manages the music data recorded in the second data conversion apparatus 121.

Please replace the paragraph at page 39, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 11 shows a data structure of the management information. An entry number 1001 represents a number of music data recorded on the recording data management information temporary storage portion 901, and the entry number 1001 takes integer values of not less than 0.

Thereafter, as for entry #1 through entry #N, data is added only by a registered number of entries. ISRC information 1005 is ISRC information of music data to be recorded. Hereinafter, identification information 1006 is a value of identification information peculiar to the secondary recording medium 128 for recording the music data. A compressing format 1007 or the like of the music data is also recorded as the need arises. In such a manner, the music data recorded in the second data conversion apparatus 121 and the secondary recording medium 128 having the music data recorded thereon can be managed in the recording data management information temporary storage portion 901.

Please replace the paragraph at page 41, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the music data are first recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128A, it is checked that the music data to be recorded have not been recorded on the recording data management information temporary storage means 901, namely, the corresponding music data have not been recorded onto the recording data management information temporary storage means 901, and the ISRC information 1005 of the music data, the identification information 1006 peculiar to the secondary recording medium 128A and the like are recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128A.

Please replace the paragraph at page 41, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, when the same music data is recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128B, the ISRC information 1005 is retrieved from the information in the recording data management information temporary storage portion 901, and it is checked that the coincided information exists, namely, the music data to be recorded have been recorded. Next, the identification information 1006 is referred to and a check is made as to whether or not it coincides with the identification information of the secondary recording medium 128B. When they coincide with each other, the recording permission judging unit 902 permits the music data to be recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128B.

[Please replace the paragraph at page 42, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:]

(2)   when the music data which is recorded on another recording medium where the music data (in the present embodiment, the secondary recording medium 128A) have been recorded are deleted and when the music data is recorded onto the secondary recording medium 128B, the recording is permitted. Namely, when the corresponding music data is deleted from the secondary recording medium 128A, the corresponding music data is deleted from the recording data management information temporary storage portion 901, and thus the recording becomes possible.